

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7-16, 18-21 and 23-43 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims in the Response to Office Action under 37 CFR §1.116 submitted on October 26, 2005 were not entered. However, the Examiner indicated that Claims 6-8, 10, 11, 22-24, 26, 27 and 38-41 contain allowable subject matter. The amendments contained herein incorporate the allowable subject matter indicated by the Examiner and are consonant with the scope of the claims already considered by the Examiner. Claims 42 and 43 have been added. Independent Claim 42 incorporates the allowable subject matter of cancelled Claim 6. Likewise, Claim 43 contains the allowable subject matter of Claim 22, rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Claims 1, 6, 17 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 2-3, 5, 7-9, 11-12, 14-16, 18-21, 23-25, 27-28, and 30-32 have also been amended to change their respective dependencies.

Further, the Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action that the proposed amendments to Claims 32-37 will overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. Thus, Claim 32 contains the same amendments that were contained in the previous Office Action. Support for this amendment is found throughout Applicant's specification as originally filed and in Paragraphs 17, 20, 22, 26, and 45, for example. In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants request entry thereof and believe that Claims 2-5, 7-16, 18-21 and 23-43 are now in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action that amended Claim 32 and its dependent Claims 33-37 are allowable. Applicants amended Claim 32 to recite that data is analyzed to establish a plurality of components that indicate an effectiveness of the relationship, where the components include level of joint work, level of communication, quality of interaction, and connectivity of social structure of the relationship. Applicants have eliminated the recitation of the limitation "significant feature". Applicants believe that Claim 32, as amended, objectively conveys the claimed subject matter with a reasonable degree of precision and particularity. As such, Applicants request allowance of Claims 32-37.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that Claims 6-8, 10-11, 22-24 and 26-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration of the claims and for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have rewritten Claim 6 in independent form as new Claim 42, and have also rewritten Claim 22 as new independent Claim 43. Based upon the amendments presented herein, Applicants believe that all of the currently pending claims are patentable over the cited art and should be allowed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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